

① Fisher Body Historical Team

12-14-05

Interviewee Willie Fuller

Interviewer Doug Radamacher

Seniority = 8-3-69

Married - yes (2) kids (4) grand (6) great grand

Education 12 grade in Louisiana

Military = ROTC in Louisiana

Reason for Hire = Come here to work for a job

* First Day = Started on Day, so large and noisy, all ~~was~~ white people environment, was not used to this coming from South Louisiana.

* First Boss = Boss then General Foreman would run the area and foreman were "yes" men.

* Most black people were in body shop or separated ~~and~~ apart from each other on the line. Very few women also. It seemed that the plant mgt wanted to keep the black people far apart so they couldn't converse or work together.

* Management in 1975 for Material Control 2 standards for blacks & whites. as supervisors safety in material was not a big issue at this time. Upper management made all the decisions in this dept. Willie never had to fire anyone directly. He was only a boss for 8 months "per diem", like on absentee replacement or vacation replacement person mgt and "per diem" were told not to show each other their payroll checks because they were different.

(2)

A Union = 1995 started as committee for the material dept to try to do some good.

A Meeting his wife in the plant = met his wife and were married three months later. They had an understanding that they trusted each other.

A Lunch time = he spoke about sleeping at first then spoke about the "wagon" coming around with sweets and drinks twice a night.

The supervisor cafeteria had better food than the regular cafeteria (Prime Rib, Chicken etc)

- Good Supervisor = Ron his dept the way he wanted, with respect for his employees, and job quality.
 - Bad Supervisor = being a yes man to upper mgmt. bullying your employees to do work right or wrong.
 - Most people at Fisher were from northern Mich and had never seen black people before. Most people just saw blacks on TV and not in the Fisher body workforce.
 - From then till now = This has been bad in the past but a little better now. Today there are still misers hanging on the wall, trunting on the bathroom walls and bad culture etc.
 - Now the union representation is better, also now we see that ~~some~~ prominent black people are being recognized for their accomplishments such as Black History Program, Hispanic Latino Program and Celebrations at CO2 Hall.
- * Prefer = Mgt, Union or Material, Union was the

most frustrating job, material was the best.

Name changes = He still calls the plant Fisher Body. The ~~cars~~ cars said body by Fisher and that meant quality and good performance.

Capital of Quality = This had a good group of people, good parts and a strong family to work with.
= In the early 70's He started a martial arts class at lunch time and break times.

Best Memory = When he was a union steward a supervisor told him he was doing a good job and if the boss was hourly he would like to be represented by Willie.

= Apartment dinners, usually on Fridays, graduation parties, retirements, Each pay period a collection was taken for needy people.

He would barbeque during the day, also would do DJ work, and a Ham Salmon also.

Union = First Black History program and steady to present. Also the Hispanic Latino celebrations and the picnics from Local 602.

Plant closing = ~~Doesn't~~ Doesn't really apply to his business. But he was sad to see it go.

= Willie doesn't miss much because he was a loner and didn't talk to too many people at all.